



An A-Z Index of the **Apple OS X** command line

The tcsh command shell of Darwin (the open source core of OSX)

alias	Create an alias
alloc	List used and free memory
awk	Find and Replace text within file(s)
basename	Convert a full pathname to just a folder path
bash	Bourne-Again SHell (Linux)
bless	Set volume bootability and startup disk options.
break	Exit from a loop
cal	Display a calendar
case	Conditionally perform a command
cat	Display the contents of a file
cd	Change Directory
chflags	Change a file or folder's flags.
chgrp	Change group ownership
chmod	Change access permissions
chown	Change file owner and group
chroot	Run a command with a different root directory
cksum	Print CRC checksum and byte counts
clear	Clear terminal screen
cmp	Compare two files
comm	Compare two sorted files line by line
complete	Edit a command completion [word/pattern/list]
continue	Resume the next iteration of a loop
cp	Copy one or more files to another location
cron	Daemon to execute scheduled commands
crontab	Schedule a command to run at a later date/time
cut	Divide a file into several parts
date	Display or change the date & time
dc	Desk Calculator
dd	Data Dump - Convert and copy a file
df	Display free disk space
diff	Display the differences between two files
diff3	Show differences among three files
dig	DNS lookup
dirname	Convert a full pathname to just a path
dirs	Display list of remembered directories
diskutil	Disk utilities - Format, Verify, Repair
ditto	Copy files and folders
dscl	Directory Service command line utility
du	Estimate file space usage
echo	Display message on screen
ed	A line-oriented text editor (edlin)
enable	Stop or start printers and classes.
env	Set environment and run a utility
eval	Evaluate several commands/arguments
exec	Execute a command
exit	Exit the shell
expect	Programmed dialogue with interactive programs Also see AppleScript

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expand      Convert tabs to spaces
expr        Evaluate expressions

false       Do nothing, unsuccessfully
fdisk       Partition table manipulator for Darwin UFS/HFS/DOS
find        Search for files that meet a desired criteria
fmt         Reformat paragraph text
fold        Wrap text to fit a specified width
for         Expand words, and execute commands
foreach     Loop, expand words, and execute commands
fsck        Filesystem consistency check and repair
fs_usage    Filesystem usage (process/pathname)
ftp         Internet file transfer program

GetFileInfo Get attributes of HFS+ files
getopt      Parse positional parameters
goto        Jump to label and continue execution
grep        Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
groups      Print group names a user is in
gzip        Compress or decompress files

head        Display the first lines of a file
hdiutil     Manipulate iso disk images
history     Command History
hostname    Print or set system name

id          Print user and group names/id's
if          Conditionally perform a command
info        Help info
install     Copy files and set attributes

jobs        List active jobs
join        Join lines on a common field

kill        Stop a process from running

l           List files in long format (ls -l)
ll          List files in long format, showing invisible files (ls -la)
less        Display output one screen at a time
ln          Make links between files (hard links, symbolic links)
locate      Find files
logname     Print current login name
login       log into the computer
logout      Exit a login shell (bye)
lpr         Print files
lprm        Remove jobs from the print queue
lpstat      Printer status information
ls          List information about file(s)
lsbom       List a bill of materials file
lsof        List open files

man         Help manual
mkdir       Create new folder(s)
mkfifo      Make FIFOs (named pipes)
more        Display output one screen at a time
mount       Mount a file system
mv          Move or rename files or directories

net         Manage network resources
nice        Set the priority of a command
nohup       Run a command immune to hangups

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`onintr` Control the action of a shell interrupt
`open` Open a file/folder/URL/Application
`osascript` Execute AppleScript

`passwd` Modify a user password
`paste` Merge lines of files
`pbcopy` Copy data to the clipboard
`pbpaste` Paste data from the Clipboard
`pico` Simple text editor
`ping` Test a network connection
`pmset` Power Management settings
`popd` Restore the previous value of the current directory
`pr` Convert text files for printing
`printenv` Print environment variables
`printf` Format and print data
`ps` Process status
`pushd` Save and then change the current directory
`pwd` Print Working Directory

`quota` Display disk usage and limits

`rcp` Copy files between machines.
`repeat` Execute a command multiple times
`rm` Remove files
`rmdir` Remove folder(s)
`rpm` Remote Package Manager
`rsync` Remote file copy - Sync file tree (also `RsyncX`)

`say` Convert text to audible speech
`sched` Schedule a command to run at a later time.
`screencapture` Capture screen image to file or disk
`sdiff` Merge two files interactively
`security` Administer Keychains, keys, certificates and the Security framework
`sed` Stream Editor
`set` Set a shell variable = value
`setenv` Set an environment variable = value
`setfile` Set attributes of HFS+ files
`shift` Shift positional parameters
`shutdown` Shutdown or restart OS X
`sleep` Delay for a specified time
`softwareupdate` System software update tool
`sort` Sort text files
`split` Split a file into fixed-size pieces
`stop` Stop a job or process
`su` Substitute user identity
`sudo` Execute a command as another user
`sum` Print a checksum for a file
`switch` Conditionally perform a command

`tail` Output the last part of files
`tar` Tape ARchiver
`tee` Redirect output to multiple files
`test` Condition evaluation
`time` Measure Program Resource Use
`touch` Change file timestamps
`traceroute` Trace Route to Host
`tr` Translate, squeeze, and/or delete characters
`true` Do nothing, successfully
`tty` Print filename of terminal on stdin
`type` Describe a command

`umask` Users file creation mask
`umount` a device
`unalias` Remove an alias
`uname` Print system information
`unexpand` Convert spaces to tabs
`uniq` Uniquify files
`units` Convert units from one scale to another
`unset` Remove variable or function names
`unsetenv` Remove environment variable
`users` Print login names of users currently logged in
`uuencode` Encode a binary file
`uudecode` Decode a file created by uuencode

`vi` Text Editor

`wc` Print byte, word, and line counts
`where` Report all known instances of a command
`which` Locate a program file in the user's path
`while` Execute commands
`who` Print all usernames currently logged on
`whoami` Print the current user id and name (``id -un``)

`xargs` Execute utility - passing arguments
`yes` Print a string until interrupted

Note: **tcsh** is the default shell in OS X Jaguar (10.2) Panther (10.3) and Tiger (10.4) default to **bash** - many commands do work in either shell, but this page will soon be updated to list the bash syntax.

Apple [OS X Man Pages](#) (Developer Connection)
Links to [other Sites](#), [Books etc...](#)

Mac OS X is a rock-solid system that's beautifully designed. I much prefer it to Linux - [Bill Joy](#)



Simon Sheppard
[SS64.com](#)